

Notes for the Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the IOM High Level Segment of the 114th Session of the IOM Council of Member States

1. Opening:

Chair, Director General, Excellences and Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honor to represent Bosnia and Herzegovina at the 114th IOM Council and share our reflections related to the climate impact on human mobility. While I regret that I cannot be with you in person, I am honored for the opportunity to deliver this important message to you.

2. Global issues

Last year **more than 30 million people were displaced worldwide**, a ten-year record. Climate change and environmental degradation could lead to **hundreds of millions having to move by 2050**.

3. BiH issues

Bosnia and Herzegovina is not immune to these effects. Based on the available data, BiH will be affected both **directly** and **indirectly** by climate change and the implications it has on mobility and displacement.

1.1 Direct effects

Directly, we can expect severe weather events to become more common. Unfortunately, BiH and the Western Balkans region are now identified as a *'climate change hotspot'*, where heat, drought, fires and severe rain are likely to increase the occurrence of disasters. As a country we have to be ready to face these challenges. In 2014, the severe floods that we experienced displaced over 40,000 persons. We know this will happen again. These phenomena will have direct impacts on livelihoods and important sectors of the economy, such as agriculture and forestry. This is also likely to lead many to move within the country, or to seek a better life elsewhere.

2.1 Indirect effects

Indirectly, Europe is likely to remain a major destination for migrants fleeing the effects of climate change in other parts of the world. Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) will continue to be a transit country for people on the move. Currently, some **six (6) percent** of the migrants surveyed in the region list environmental changes as the main reason for leaving their countries. What will it be in the future, and how can we best prepare to face these challenges?

4. BiH achievement

Bosnia and Herzegovina has achieved a lot over the past years in relation to the international agenda on climate change. As part of our commitment to the Paris Agreement, we updated our **Nationally Determined Contributions** in 2021, now targeting a **reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33.2% below 1990 levels** by 2030.

We continue to be committed to implementing the **objectives of the Global Compact for Migration**, as evidenced by the participation of a high-level delegation from BiH to the 2022 International Migration Review Forum.

Last year, Bosnia and Herzegovina voted **'yes'** to recognize that a **clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a universal human right** at the United Nations General Assembly.

We are strongly committed to working towards achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals**, including those on climate and environmental sustainability. Recently, with the support of IOM and UNDP, we gathered a group of **young people from across BiH** to elaborate **youth's messaging for the BiH delegation participating to COP 28**.

What the youth in BiH want to remind us is that climate change should not be seen a political issue, and that **we must act now to ensure a safer future for the next generation**.

Finally, as a signatory country, BiH is actively implementing the **Sendai Framework** for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Since September 2022, BiH has become a **full member of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism**, which is of fundamental importance for us to build community capacities to prevent and prepare for disasters.

Through this mechanism, **BiH was also able to rapidly deploy rescue workers to respond** following the devastating earthquake that happened in eastern Türkiye earlier this year.

5. Key messages

I would like to thank the IOM Director-General Amy Pope for calling for **international solidarity**. This is precisely what we need to collectively face challenges related to climate change and mobility.

We will continue to mobilize our resources to plan for disaster preparedness in our context and stand ready to assist our partners when they need it.

In a few days, world leaders will be meeting in Dubai for COP28. We welcome the news that IOM will have a high-level presence at this Conference. This is a historical opportunity for us to highlight how migration and climate change are inevitably interlinked. Let us not miss this opportunity.

Thank you for your time.